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Author: Dr. Dick Williams
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Larry Now, you were teaching at Western [Western Michigan University] in the 1970's, is that right? It wasn't in psychology though.

Dr. No, I started out in the old College of General Studies.

Larry Right, yes. I might have had you. What did you teach?

Dr. I remind you this was the early 70's. I had a course that started out "Science and Mysticism and Drugs."

Larry I didn't take that one.

Dr. It was just packed.

Priscilla I was going to say I bet it was just packed.

Larry I went to Western from 1970 to '72.

Dr. Oh yeah, well that's—

Larry Got my bachelors, but I didn't take that course.

Dr. That course evolved into another name. That was a long story, but my early teacher was a guy named Allen Watts. Kind of a Zen psychology, and he introduced me to Joseph Campbell, and Joe and I became good friends. Joe's big thing was mythology, so I changed the name of the course to Science, Mysticism, and Creating Mythology.

Larry I would have taken that.

Dr. It was a fun class to teach, yes, very popular. That general study - this was part of the story actually. I'm trying to think where to begin.

Larry Could you begin by just telling me a little bit about where you were born and your education?

Dr. Oh, yes. I was born in southern Indiana, Vincennes, but then moved to Kansas; I did my doctoral studies near the University of Missouri, and my internship at the Menninger Foundation. That's where I ran into my first real mentor, Dr. Elmer Green and his wife Alyce, who had started what's called the Voluntary Controls program. I don't know if you remember Dr. Joe Kamiya, San Francisco, who was studying brain waves. He had hooked some people up to an EEG, and he was looking at the incidence of alpha activity, which is a rhythmic kind of neutral brain activity, and seeing what states the person experienced associated with the alpha activity.

Joe had a bell hooked up to his system. When alpha activity would increase, the bell would ring ding - and that would signal Dr. Kamiya to look at the chart and mark it. So, he was doing a study, and one day one of the subjects said, "Would you like for me to make the alpha come on more frequently?" Joe said, "Huh? Excuse me?" "Because I can do that." Joe Kamiya said, "No kidding. Do it." The guy kept ringing the bell. And Joe Kamiya thought, "Wow, he's controlling his own brain." That led to the National Enquirer, and all kinds of hoopla about instant Zen and so forth; it just kind of got out of control.

Larry This is in the mid 60's, is it?

Dr. Yes. Then Elmer Green picked up on that brain activity training, and I was there when he was bringing in a bunch of people named Swami Rama, and Jack Swartz, and people who could do unusual things with their bodies.

Larry Uri Geller, was he one?

Dr. Yes.

Larry He was?

Dr. Yes. The whole idea was to study what was happening physiologically and associate that with what these people were doing psychically, if you will. I got involved in that. I had to get into this on my own, so I came back to Kalamazoo and the College of General Studies. This leads right into the Fetzer stuff.

I wanted some equipment, but I didn't have the money. I went down to the bank and I borrowed \$3,000 and bought some early biofeedback equipment and set it up in my office. Then eventually I talked the university into giving me a shabby little house that was at the back of the university bookstore, kind of a shabby little place. I put a sign up out in the yard, and this was a really

popular university sign. I put a sign up that said, 'Center for Biofeedback and Mind Research.'

Larry I think I remember that sign.

Dr. A lot of people remember that sign. The psychology department, in particular, remembers that sign, because they've been trying for years to get rid of the concept of mind. That led to a whole other story. Then Bill Kruzine, the health editor—you probably remember him.

Larry Sure.

Dr. Bill Kruzine picked up on this and did a story on me. I came walking though the office one day, and there was a telephone message for me from Carolyn Dailey at WKZO; she asked me to return her call. What is this Carolyn Dailey? I called her back and she said, "Hello, I'm Mr. Fetzer's secretary, and he's interested in meeting you."

Larry Can you remember about what year that was in?

Dr. About '74, '75. I said, Okay. And I went down to WKZO. I remember walking into John's office. It was huge; I knew something was up as soon as I walked in there, because here was this Buddha sitting over in the corner with a baseball bat. He sat me down and we talked for a while and he said, "Dr. Williams, I'm really interested in the kind of thing you're doing."

He said, "I just want to offer whatever encouragement I can to continue doing what you're doing." I said, "That's nice." He said, "What's your next step?" I said, "I have some kind of rudimentary equipment and there's a lot better equipment out there on the market; I think I'll see if I can find a way to get that." I was being really careful, because I didn't want it to sound like I was soliciting him for money. I said, "Well, I'll find a way to do that."

He said, "Why don't you go up and talk to Howard Kellar, at the Kalamazoo Foundation, and see if they can get involved with what you're doing." I got an appointment. I assume you know; I went up there and talked to him for a while. He said, "Well, I don't really think this is something that we're going to be too interested in." I said, "Well okay, I thought I'd give it a try. It was a suggestion of Mr. Fetzer, so I said I'd give it a try." He said, "Is John Fetzer interested in this?" And I said, "Yes, we had a meeting." He started to change; he set up a presentation for me with the Board, because Rhea was on the Board at the time. I went in and did a presentation, and they gave me a \$12,000 grant, which was enough to buy this more advanced equipment. I set that up in that little house there, and students started coming, wanting to get involved; it was like a magnet attracting these students.

Larry Like for interns?

Dr. Yes, they wanted to, well, not necessarily be interns. They just wanted to get involved and participate. That was people like Morey Edwards, Gary Shavoya and lots of other people who went on to do their own thing; and then Al Schut, you know him?

Larry Was that—no, I don't.

Dr. He died about a year ago. He founded Kalamazoo Ophthalmology. Al Schut had an assistant who got involved with the work I was doing at Western, and his assistant went up and told Dr. Schut about it.

Al was real interested, and he said, "I'll tell you what I'll do, Dick. Why don't I invite a group of local healthcare providers, physicians, to my house, and you come out and do a presentation about health." I went out and I did a little presentation. It was Ray Kreiger, who was at Kalamazoo Guidance Clinic for a long time, and Dave Flagler of Kalamazoo Neurology, and somebody from the Upjohn Company, I don't remember who it was. Then Philip Stott, who was the director of Midwest Oncology. You see this can get kind of long here.

Priscilla No, this is interesting.

Dr. I did the presentation and everyone in the evening said, Well, thanks a lot, this is kind of interesting. And I thought, Well, that was a waste of time. Everyone left, and there was one guy sitting over there smoking his pipe and his brow furrowed, and that was Dr. Philip Stott. Do you know him?

Larry No, no.

Dr. He came up to me. He said, "You think this kind of stuff can be of any help to cancer patients?" I said, "Yes, controlling stress, anxiety and maybe some nausea, chemotherapy, and things like that." He said, "Want to come out and work with me?" I said, "Work with you? What do you mean?" "I want to invite you to come out and join Midwest Oncology." I talked to the Dean of the college about research time, which he agreed to.

I went out and opened the first of its type in Midwestern United States, a psychological intervention program for cancer patients, that was based upon the work of an oncologist in Texas named Carl Simonton who's using imagery, shrinking tumors. This is terrific stuff; and Phil Stott went along with it, was a little skeptical, but I really emphasized the relaxation/stress management part. Kind of held off on the imagery, I thought a little too hokey at the time.

Larry The concept of this Pacman eating cancer cells, had that come out at that time?

Dr. It did. That's the technique that Carl Simonton used to visualize your white blood cells consuming the cancer cells. I got groups of patients together and we did imagery and meditation type things; and it was working. Now I can't say that cancers were being reversed. I don't have that kind of data, but we clearly saw, and Dr. Stott saw, that people's morale was increased and they were sleeping better.

Larry Relieving any tensions.

Priscilla Well yes, the depression that cancer patients go through.

Dr. They were doing something.

Priscilla Yes, absolutely.

Dr. I was keeping Mr. Fetzer informed about all this, and he would say, "Yes, yes, this is great stuff." Midwest Oncology had a retreat, at the Holiday Inn right over here on US-131. We were sitting around the room with Dr. Stott and several other oncologists. One of the oncologists worked a lot with kids, pediatric oncology, and he said, "You think you could develop a program like this for children?"

Yes, why not work with kids? Then I thought to myself, Wait a minute, this is kind of getting out of hand here. How much can I do? At the same time, Bill Burian, former Dean, had heard about what I was doing in general studies; he came over and wanted me to join the newly founded College of Health and Services. He said, "You belong over here." I said, "Okay, but what can I do? What do you want me to do?" He said, "What do you want to do?" I said, "Well, how about if we would maybe create an outpatient clinic utilizing these self-regulation techniques called biofeedback and meditation."

I was working with a person in the OT department, Marian Bush, who was interested in this, too, and I said, "Well, how about if I work with Marian Bush through the OT clinic, and we create an outpatient clinic through OT." Bill said, "Okay, let's do it." I was sitting in this motel room with these oncologists. They want me to develop a children's program and Bill Burian wants me to develop an outpatient clinic.

Larry It's all happening at the same time.

Dr. So I was sitting in that hotel room, just thinking and I said, "I've got this education clinic program at Western I'm trying to put together, and this oncology program at Borgess, and how's all this going to work?" I just spoke up and I said, "Well, I have an idea." I explained to the oncologists, I said, "What if we put all of this under one roof and call it Institute for Holistic Medicine." I just kind of dug that name up.

Larry That wasn't in common use then, was it?

Dr. Not at all. I just thought holistic made the whole thing. They said, "Well, that's an interesting concept." I went back and told Bill Burian about it, and he was really keen on the idea. He said, Let's go talk to Martin Verzi at Borgess. I went in and laid the whole thing out for Martin Verzi.

Larry But you already were affiliated with Borgess?

Dr. Yes, I was working with Midwest Oncology.

Larry Oh, in our own Borgess.

Dr. Kalamazoo Neurology came along, and they wanted to get me involved in Kalamazoo Neurology, Dave Flagler and Philip Green and these other people.

Priscilla Yes.

Dr. We went up to talk to Martin Verzi, and I laid the whole thing out for him. There was Mr. Verzi sitting behind this polished oak desk. I felt intimidated sitting there with the President of the hospital, and I thought, Well, this is not going to fly. Bill Burian is sitting there with me. I spelled it all out for Mr. Verzi. He looked at me and he said, "Let's do it." Excuse me? He said, "These doctors need to learn there are other things than what they think they know." He said, "We'll develop that clinic and make it a loss leader for the hospital." Bill Burian and I walked out of that meeting and we looked at each other and couldn't believe what just happened.

I went to a Board of Trustees meeting at Borgess and laid this whole thing out. Robert Fabi was there, a neurosurgeon, and he said, "What you're really talking about is a pain program." I said, "Yes, partially but it's a little bit more than that." I tried to explain what it was. The Board of Trustees approved the idea, so we were off and running. The Board of Directors was created for the whole thing and Mr. Fetzer was on the Board, Patrick Conlon was on the Board, Philip Stott was on the Board, and, of course, Bill Burian was on the Board. Later Mr. Fetzer stepped aside and put Chuck Spence as his representative in.

Priscilla Now did you have a building then at Borgess, too, or was this all going on at Western?

Dr. They gave us a little house that was on the corner of Shaffer and Gull Road there. It's a parking lot now.

Priscilla Oh, okay.

Dr. But we had a little house there that had a sign out front that said, Borgess Medical Center, Western Michigan University Institute of Holistic Medicine. Well, here we go. Little did I know that you don't change a culture like that from the top down with the President saying, This is what we're going to do. Because it left out the medical staff.

Larry Were they leery?

Dr. Yes. It was kind of an uphill fight the whole time, and I was answerable to a medical oversight committee that met once a month at seven a.m. in the morning, and I dreaded those meetings. Why do you think I'm not practicing holistic medicine? This is not a comment about your practice. It's an attempt . . . that kind of tone.

Larry What side was Fabi on?

Dr. He was kind of neutral. He kept thinking of it as a pain clinic. But there were other people, like Phil Stott and Philip Green, who came along later on, and I know you know Phil, he's in gerontology. There were some supporters but there were a lot of detractors. John Fetzer was continuing to orally support the whole thing, and then he did me a "favor" by naming me, I forget what it was now, naming me as an executor, or something like that, of the Fetzer Foundation for Western Michigan University. All funding from the Fetzer Foundation would come through me to the university; it was not popular, because I was a low-level faculty member.

Larry Russ Seibert probably didn't like that.

Dr. Not very much. Jumping ahead in time a little bit, but there were people who wanted to solicit Mr. Fetzer for money for a new building, which is now the Fetzer Center. Russ Seibert asked me to his office one day. I didn't know what was up, but he said, "We're looking to Mr. Fetzer for some money for a new business center and we'd like your advice on how to approach him." I saw some red flags go up right there.

I said, "Well, how can I say this. Mr. Fetzer relies pretty heavily on unconventional sources of information," putting it politely. Russell Seibert said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well, he consults confidants that he has that most people would call psychics, and he takes his lead from the advice he gets there." I left it at that. I called up John and I said, "John I need to talk to you." I went in his office and I said, "You need to know the university has approached me about you and they wanted to know how to" —oh, he's used to that kind of thing.

Larry By then he was.

Dr. I said, “Well I just wanted you to know and I want everything to be on top of the table here.” He said, “Don’t worry about it. I’ll take care of it.” I did my job. Things kept evolving and evolving, and I did set up the Institute for Holistic Medicine at Borgess. John Fetzer, and later Chuck Spence, continued to be on the Board of Trustees. On a personal note, one of the stressful parts of that is, during this whole time, my wife was dying of cancer.

Larry That’s terrible.

Dr. It was.

Larry How you had the energy to do all that—

Dr. Well—

Priscilla It kept your mind off it.

Dr. Yes, it was a tough time. I got through it. Setting up the educational program at Western finally all began to click into place. I’m sorting things out here as I go along. In the meantime, John became very heavily involved in other kinds of endeavors like A Course in Miracles, and he was very interested in that and wanted me to get involved in that.

Priscilla Did you get involved in A Course in Miracles?

Dr. Not largely. I read some of it and I saw a lot of echoes of things I had already read about in Christian mysticism and so forth.

Larry Did you talk to Judy Skutch Whitson?

Dr. Yes, and apparently she was the one who channeled that.

Larry No, she published it, but it was Helen who channeled that.

Dr. Oh, okay, I didn’t know that.

Larry She promoted it, published it.

Dr. I thought she was the one.

Larry No, no. She is a bit of a psychic herself, but she didn’t channel that.

Dr. Gotcha. At that time, Mr. Fetzer was heavily involved in biomagnetic and magneto biologic phenomenon. His direct interest in radio technology I think played a big role in that.

Priscilla I do, too.

Dr. The effect of electromagnetic activity on the human body and mind, and vice versa. He made a habit of calling me up a lot, because he got interested in garage inventors, as he called them. He said, “Hey Dick, there’s this guy down in Elkhart, invented this or that. Let’s go down and take a look at that.” So, we’d get in his ‘Caddy’ and drive down there; this guy had developed a light therapy system of using multiple lanterns with different colors and shining them on the human body, looking for different outcomes having to do with rejuvenation.

Larry It reveals an aura, does it or something?

Dr. It was supposed to have a direct effect on cellular activity in the body because of the different frequencies that were emitted by the different colors in the spectrum. It was quite an elaborate thing. Then John got interested in the work of a Russian scientist with the name of Igor Witkowski, who was a student of Nikola Tesla. (Ed. Note: Witkowski was also involved with the “Nazi Bell” somehow, which was considered to be a UFO device of some kind, perhaps connected with the WWII Nazi “foo-fighters.”)

Larry Oh, yes.

Dr. Witkowski had developed what was called a rejuvenation machine. It has two circular coils that a person sits between, and you turn it on and it emits an electromagnetic field that bathes the human body. I walked into his office one day and he said, “Dick, you know that Witkowski machine they’ve been talking about?” I said, “Yes.” “Here it is.” He had a cardboard box he handed to me; he had one of his engineers actually build it. I have it in my basement today.

Larry No kidding.

Priscilla You’re kidding.

Larry Do you remember his name, the engineer? I think we know who it was though. He and his son worked on it.

Dr. Yes, it was a chief engineer.

Larry Yes, it was. You’ve still got it though?

Dr. I still have it. I wouldn’t dare turn it on today. I’m afraid it would blow up or something.

Larry But you did turn it on?

Dr. I did.

Larry Did it do anything?

Dr. I don't know. What happened was, I had some people who had cancer, who wanted to come to my house and try it out. And I did. One day I had another person in there who knew a lot about engineering, who said, "I smell ozone." I said, "You do?" He said, "It's not good. It's making a lot of ozone." Then Dr. Stott, the director of Midwest Oncology, found out about that, and he got his nose out of the joint a little bit and said, Maybe you shouldn't be doing this.

Larry Because you were being like a practitioner?

Dr. Yes, and trying it untested. Today I would never do it. But I told Mr. Fetzer about that and I said, "I can't use people in that fashion. I can't do that," and he understood. We continued to go from place to place, looking at different machines. Some of them were interesting, some of them weren't important, but that was his consuming interest.

Larry Yes.

Priscilla Did you ever—

Larry I was just going to say, he originally had a laboratory out at the Fetzer Institute where he envisioned people actually making things and experiments.

Dr. Correct. Srini Vasani was there. I got involved in that through Chuck Spence. Chuck came to me in 1985 or '86 and said, "I want you to be a consultant, a special consultant for the Fetzer Foundation, in areas of electromagnetic phenomenon and psychophysiology." Okay, so I did. That got me involved with Srini Vasani and a lot of brain mapping work, which I continue to do to this day, you know. Srini and I became pretty close.

We went to India together, to Madras, and went to the Energy Medicine Conference together. Elmer Green was there and Charles Tard, and a whole list of people you'd probably recognize, like Norm Shealy, but then I came back. This was in '86 or '87 and the end of '87; things were really rolling. It was very, very exciting to be in the midst of all of that activity that was going on. I went to meetings of people who were interested in psycho neuro-immunology, using the mind and brain to create robust activity in the body, a very, very exciting time. I was reviewing proposals.

Chuck put me in charge of Dr. Jim Hardt, who had a long-term brain wave training program in San Jose. I became kind of a go-between, between the

Fetzer Foundation and Jim Hardt; Jim and I are to this day very close friends. Of course, he put me in charge of the Menninger Foundation project, with Elmer Green, and with Dr. Herbert Benson at Harvard Medical School. Those were my three big jobs for Fetzer in that period of life.

This is really interesting. I was at a professional meeting in Denver one time, and somebody came up to me and said, "Hey Dick, there you are. Did you know Elmer and Elise Green are looking for you?" I said, "No, I had no idea." I said, "Where are they?" He said, "They're sitting around a circle down in that ballroom, just chatting." I went in there and I sat down and said, "Elmer, Elise, were you looking for me?" They looked at me and said, "No. But now that you're here, sit down. We're just talking." I just sat down. Elmer was talking to everyone.

He had just finished reading some works, called the Mahatma Papers from India, and in those papers it was described how monks would sit in front of a very highly polished copper wall, and the reflection of the monk in the copper wall would lead to some type of change that would induce a state of clarity. Elmer was talking about that. He said, "You, that's the kind of thing that could be studied scientifically." I was sitting right to Elmer's side, and he poked me with his elbow and said, "Wouldn't know where I could get a few hundred thousand dollars would you, Dick?" I said, "Maybe." He said, "Really?" I said, "Maybe, Elmer." I came back to Kalamazoo. I called John and got a meeting set up with John; I went in and I told him about this and put him in touch with Elmer Green. John gave him, I think, a quarter of a million dollars and they built a copper wall study at the Menninger Foundation.

Larry It never worked, did it?

Dr. It did.

Larry It did? I heard it was a failure.

Dr. Not really.

Larry Oh, really?

Dr. The one at Topeka did work.

Priscilla It did work?

Dr. Yes, I would go down there frequently, and Elmer would show me his data; he had a lot of things worked out in terms of which way a person should be facing, north, south, east, or west. It was different for men than it was for women, and so forth. He had a whole bunch of scribbles, polygraph writings on paper and he was showing me this and showing me that.

What Elmer wanted to do was to use that room - you sit a person on a chair in the midst of that room and you measure the flux of electromagnetic activity in the room as the person is doing this or that. The person could watch a dial indicating when the electromagnetic flux was increasing or decreasing. Elmer said we could turn this into a biofeedback instrument to teach people how to be healers, because they could watch this dial and tell what they're doing with their own electric magnetic flux. John Fetzer was very excited about that. Later on, Menninger Foundation took the program down because the psychiatrists out there needed the money that was going into the Voluntary Controls project, and they defunded the project.

Larry Yes, that happens sometimes.

Dr. Yes. Now comes a different wrinkle in the whole thing. In 1980, in the midst of all this activity that was going on, I got a visit from the grandson of a woman in Sawyer, Michigan, who owned a large tract of land that had a resort on it, on Lake Michigan. The grandson came in and said that his grandmother had been at the presentation I gave on holistic medicine, and was intrigued, and wanted to make all that property available to me at my disposal to create a holistic medicine center.

Larry On that property?

Dr. On that property. I thought, Holy smokes, what does that mean? John Fetzer called me up one day and he said, "Hey Dick, I've got somebody who just came into town I want you to meet." I said, "Okay." He didn't tell me who. We had a lunch meeting at the Black Swan, and I walk in there and John was sitting there and Lynn Dailey was there and this guy and—

Priscilla This grandson you'd already met?

Dr. No, this visitor that came in from out of town.

Priscilla Oh, the visitor, okay.

Dr. I didn't know who it was. And we sat down at the table; John said, "Dick how are things?" "Okay." I told him, I said, "Look, I have a real dilemma, John. I've got this Institute for Holistic Medicine at Borgess. I've got this specialty program Holistic Healthcare at Western. Now this woman on Lake Michigan wants to make this property available to develop a kind of an Esalen Institute type of retreat."

I said, "I don't know how I can possibly do all this." John put his hand over my arm, grabbed my arm. He said, "You're going to do it all." And I said, "I am?" Here it is. He said, "Dick, I'm going to divest myself of all my holdings, the

Detroit Tigers, all my radio and TV stations and make that money available to you to develop that program.”

Larry This was in 1980?

Dr. Yes. I walked out of that lunch meeting. I didn’t know what to think at that point. I went to Bill Burian and told him what was up, and Bill Burian could hardly believe it. I said, “Bill, I’m going to have to take more time away from faculty here to try to get this thing done.” I’ll try to use the right tone of this, because there was a very, how should I say, stressful period for me.

About three or four weeks later, I called Lynn Dailey because of something I needed to talk to Mr. Fetzer about, and she said, “Mr. Fetzer’s not available.” I said, “When would he be available?” She said, “Well, I’m not sure.” I said, “Okay, can you give me some idea, because there’s something very important I need to talk to him about?” “Well, I’m not sure when he’s going to be available.”

About an hour later I got a call back from Lynn Dailey. She said, “I have a message from Mr. Fetzer.” I said, “What’s that?” She said, “He said to tell you it’s all off.” I said, “It’s all off?” I said, “That’s it?” “That’s it.” I’ll leave the rest to your to imagine. About a year later, John called me up to have lunch at the country club; he wanted to apologize to me for that. Here’s what happened: The mysterious man at the table was a psychic from Canada.

Larry Killick?

Dr. Yes, Ken Killick. Ken had told him that an opportunity would come along where a piece of land would be available that he could develop his Fetzer Foundation idea for healthcare. At that table I remember Ken Killick looking at John Fetzer and saying, “There it is,” and John Fetzer said, “That’s it.” Later, Ken Killick told Mr. Fetzer he had made a big mistake, that that was not it. Then it got pulled out.

Larry Where did Swierenga get involved?

Dr. I don’t know. I don’t think Swierenga was involved.

Larry Had his own agenda, I think.

Dr. I don’t know.

Larry You know they were affiliated.

Dr. Correct, yes. Mr. Fetzer told me a year later, he said that fellow, Ken Killick had misled him on a number of things, and he was now, I think, in a psychiatric hospital in Canada or something like that.

Larry He misled him on the Tiger's strike. Gave him some bad advice on that.

Dr. Was that one of them?

Larry Yes, so he was replaced by another psychic, you probably know, Jim Gordon.

Dr. Yes. Anyway, I got through that. Then I was involved with the Fetzer Foundation, was then the Foundation, with all this psycho-physiological electromagnetic activity and a very, very exciting period. Then Glenn Olds came in.

Larry Did away with everything.

Dr. Did away with everything. I know, I had conversations with Mr. Fetzer. At that point he was very upset.

Larry How that happened. He only lasted about a year, and then Rob came in. Did Rob attempt to get it back on?

Dr. Not in that fashion; the original direction of the Foundation was more toward biomechanical electromagnetic things. I haven't had much contact at all, nothing with the Fetzer Institute now.

Larry Oh, since then.

Dr. I don't think much of that – or any of it is left.

Larry Well, they're moving in different directions.

Priscilla Were you on the Board then, or you were never on the Board? Just part of the whole—

Dr. Kind of the mechanics.

Larry Did John ever talk to you about his brother-in-law, Dr. Vant Yeager?

Dr. Yes.

Larry John funded some similar things.

Dr. Yes, I haven't thought of that name in years until you just mentioned it, but yes, he did mention it.

Larry Yes, I think he gave a computer to do some exploration of brain waves.

Dr. He was very much involved with E. Roy John at Princeton University. John was interested in the interface of human being with machines, and how they affect each other and so forth. It was my impression, I think it's an accurate one, that that was the area that Mr. Fetzer was most interested in. The other areas of spirituality and so forth, he was, of course, very interested in that, but that wasn't where he was putting his primary energy into.

Larry Since his background was an engineer, he would tend to.

Dr. Right.

Larry Did he ever mention any of these other - they refer to them as esoteric; I'm not comfortable using that word, because it has another meaning, specialized, but let's say paranormal interests, like UFOs. He talked to you about that?

Dr. Absolutely.

Larry He talked about Edgar Mitchell's influence?

Dr. Yes, I went out to some of the meetings at the Institute of Noetic Sciences in San Francisco. Chuck Spence provided the transportation. I would go out and attend those meetings, and I met Edgar Mitchell and Judy Skutch. Then on several occasions, but on one occasion in particular, John and I got into a very in-depth discussion about things like that. He said, "Dick, you would never believe what's really behind all this." I don't know what I said, but then he started telling me about the Hall of Records, and that he had gone through these different incarnations all the way up to and including Thomas Jefferson, Ramses II. He said that he had been, I hope this is accurate, he had been the king of Atlantis, had misused crystal power, and had been responsible for the deluge. This lifetime was his opportunity to correct the mistake. Walk into the Fetzer Institute and here are all these crystals.

Larry Yes, the crystals, but the Hall of Records isn't there anymore.

Dr. Where are the statues?

Larry They're in the basement.

Dr. Oh, really.

Larry Thomas Jefferson is upstairs but that's the only one. They turned that space into a display of Fetzer's life.

Dr. His office has that half moon, which is modeled after the windows in Monticello.

Larry Right, and then there are a lot of Egyptian motifs throughout.

Dr. One of the things that happened, as I understand it, is the building of that building was a big hoopla over how much it cost. It was originally designed to be a vertical pyramid, and then the engineers came along and said, You can't do this. How do you put elevators and things like that in a pyramid? You can't do it. They took the pyramid, laid it on its side, and then the obelisk outside where sunlight shines through the hole at the top onto the building. So it's all there, the Egyptian motif is in place.

Larry Did he talk to you about pyramids?

Dr. Yes.

Larry Did he? We visited a couple of people who built the pyramid out on Dumont Lake, the Hardy's.

Priscilla They built a pyramid back in the 70's. Did you go out to it?

Dr. I never went out to it.

Larry John went out several times.

Dr. I remember he mentioned that. But we used to have conversations about things like that. I've always been interested in the writings of Graham Hancock and people who've written about what's going on with the pyramids; I know Fetzer was fascinated with that.

Larry Oh, yes. You know, that's interesting. I hadn't heard that he had made the mistake at Atlantis with the crystal, because he remained very interested in crystal power, as you know.

Dr. Right.

Larry A lot of money in some of those crystals.

Dr. I don't know exactly how much, but I know they were pretty pricey.

Priscilla Yes.

Dr. I was trying to do it at Borgess and Western, and again, he dropped out. I think health problems were severe. Chuck Spence (Chuck represented Fetzer on the Holistic Health Medicine Board).

Larry Do you think he was also looking to find something to help Rhea?

Dr. Yes.

Larry Did he ever talk to you?

Dr. He told me that, yes.

Larry It was about 1980 she deteriorated pretty badly.

Dr. Yes, and he was aware that during that whole period, it was '78 and '80, my wife was dying of metastatic cancer. He was making suggestions here and there of things that could help my wife; his consultants and psychic friends and special prayer vigils and that sort of thing, Witkowski rejuvenation machine. As you can see, a pretty interesting period of time.

Larry Your work has really become quite accepted now.

Dr. Absolutely.

Priscilla The holistic medicine is still going on here in Kalamazoo.

Dr. Yes, it is, and there are different forms of it taking place right now. There's a holistic health center here in town right now, David Crocker physician.

Priscilla Oh, yes.

Dr. I'm supposed to have lunch or breakfast with him in the next couple of days. I've never met him, but their leading edge is marijuana and I have misgivings with that. Maybe not a leading edge but—.

Larry That might be one aspect of—.

Dr. Correct.

Priscilla Isn't the Holistic Institute out at Borgess still?

Dr. It's called integrated medicine now. Alicia Williams is directing that.

Larry But you're not affiliated with Borgess anymore?

Dr. I have my own clinic.

Priscilla You're retired from Western, too?

Dr. Yes, so this is my sole endeavor here right now.

Priscilla That's wonderful.

Larry You're still mapping the brain and things like that?

Dr. Yep, yes. We're probably the only place in this part of the country that's doing that. The interesting thing is, I ran across something that the Fetzer Institute was involved in, looking at brain activity patterns while a person is going through various phases of forgiveness; I looked at that, and I thought, that's what I do. They're working with Ritchie Davidson, I believe it is at the University of Wisconsin, and that's what I do every day.

Priscilla Could have just come down the street and talked to you. You know, it's always in your own back yard.

Dr. Experts are always 100 miles away.

Larry Yes, yes.

Priscilla Yes, that's true.

Larry What about that therapy where they're putting electrodes in parts of the brain, is that why you're doing this?

Dr. We don't put them in the brain. We put them on the scalp.

Larry Oh, okay, but they activate certain parts of the brain?

Dr. Yes, the person activates and you can tell. It's called neuro feedback. I'm working with a lot here with people with brain injuries and depression, sleep problems, anxiety, ADD.

Larry Is there another way, called deep penetration, where they actually make the electron enter parts of the brain to activate? Is that another—

Priscilla I think that's a practice.

Dr. Yes, that's a neurological procedure. That's outside our license.

Larry Okay.

Dr. I'll show you what we do. What we do is we get the EEG information and then change it into patterns that we can study. This is the electrical activity in the brain. This is one of the 3D images. Say I want to look at areas of activity in the brain, I can create—

Larry It will turn red if they're being activated?

Dr. Where areas of high activity are.

Larry Do you do anything with right and left brain?

Dr. Oh yes, yes. Then the other thing that's most exciting is, people come in, and we wire them up, and they interact with the computer, and they start changing their brain activity: sometimes the brain gets in the way of what the person needs to do, and so we debug the brain.

Larry What I'm wondering about is the ability of some people to change involuntary activities, like heartbeat and blood pressure; can anybody do that? Okay, so it's not just a special type of person?

Dr. Not everybody will, because of belief structures and that sort of thing. That's why we really have to engage the person at a belief level here and show them the relationship between their breathing and their heart rate. We have programs for that.

Priscilla No kidding? For blood pressure?

Dr. Yeah, where people will learn to coordinate their breathing and their heart rate. I've seen drops of 20 to 30 points in blood pressure within a single session in the office. Yes.

Priscilla That is amazing.

Dr. So the answer is yes. That's one of the things we learned in Menninger Foundation early on, when we wired up people like Swami Rama and Jack Schwartz; we learned that these are not special abilities. Everyone has them. It's a matter of reviving them, teaching them, orienting the person, but yes.

Priscilla Fascinating.

Dr. I'm working with people right now with migraine headaches who have been through these many medications; this one woman I'm working with has been headache free for four weeks now.

Larry I bet she's happy.

Dr. Oh yes, she's never experienced that in the past 15 years.

Larry After a while does it become almost involuntary?

Dr. It's like resetting the controls. I tell people it's like a thermostat. You set the thermostat where you want to set it. If it's too high, you lower it. If it's too low, you raise it. Your brain kind of is adapted to that.

Larry Wow, amazing.

Dr. It becomes just part of who you are.

Larry I want to ask you a few more questions about John. Did he ever bring his pendulum out?

Dr. His what?

Larry Pendulum.

Dr. Oh, my goodness.

Priscilla There's a memory.

Dr. In fact, I came up to his office one time for a meeting; I walked into his office, and he was doing that with his pendulum. He said, "Sit down, Dick." I sat down and he said, "I want you to meet somebody." I said, "Okay." He said, "This is Mark Fidrich."

Larry Oh, no kidding?

Dr. The pitcher.

Larry Yes, the one that talks to the ball.

Dr. Yes, and he was working on Mark Fidrich's arm there.

Larry Oh, would this have been like '75, '76?

Dr. Something.

Larry Oh, that's interesting.

Dr. So I met Mark Fidrich.

Larry He was showing him the pendulum.

Dr. Yes.

Larry Asking it questions.

Dr. A many-faceted guy. I don't know what he would say about where things are right now at the Fetzer Institute.

Larry What do you think he would say?

Dr. I think he would say this is fine. This is a part of what needs to happen, but we need to balance it out; these other things that he was interested in. I think he would pull the reins in a little bit.

Larry Yes, it's kind of a tight wire because, on one hand, if you get a reputation as being "kooky" then the major institutions will not align themselves with you.

Dr. Correct.

Larry But on the other hand, if you go too far in that other direction, you lose some of the momentum.

Dr. Well, I'm all for forgiveness and compassion.

Larry Love and forgiveness.

Dr. Of course, what else? I tell my patients a lot that I think sometimes you can forgive the person, but you have a hard time forgiving the act. There's a difference between the two. I talked to a woman who's been raped, for example, and it's kind of tough to talk about forgiveness.

Larry Sure it is.

Dr. But, I think if I were in charge of the program, I would look for projects that can have value in demonstrating some things to the establishment, which I think was a primary goal of the Fetzer Foundation, with demonstrations. Effective approaches to alternative healthcare. There I said it.

Priscilla And I agree. I think there were some great ones, like when they had Bill Moyers do that special (inaudible). You know that was really good. That was ten years ago or so.

Larry There's no question, there's so much we can learn.

Priscilla There is.

Larry That's yet to be learned.

Dr. Yes.

Priscilla Look at what you've done just in your lifetime. All the things you were juggling and what has come from that?

Dr. I don't know where I got the energy from.

Priscilla To me it's just amazing.

Larry After what you did, yes.

Dr. Yeah.

Priscilla When did you sleep? Yes, yes.

Dr. Have you seen Chuck Spence?

Larry We're going to see him next week.

Dr. Oh, my goodness, I haven't been in touch with Chuck in a long time.

Priscilla They're out by Climax-Scotts area.

Dr. He was having some leg or back trouble?

Priscilla We haven't met him yet. I just called and made an appointment.

Dr. Vic Eichler, have you met him?

Larry No, what was his relationship?

Dr. They brought him from Wichita. He had a doctorate in biology; he was very much involved in biomagnetic phenomenon, that kind of thing. That was his area. There were two or three others, people - I'm trying to remember their names and I can't right now.

Priscilla We are going to try to get out to Arizona and see Srini.

Dr. Oh, are you really?

Priscilla Yes, yes.

Dr. Is he still at Arizona State?

Priscilla From what we've heard. I haven't gotten a phone number yet. He was an essential part of the Institute.

Dr. Yes, absolutely.

Priscilla He worked with John a lot.

Dr. Srini and I worked pretty closely together at one time; we did brain mapping projects and setting up that laboratory out there.

Priscilla With all these meetings you had with John, a lot of people say to us that John could compartmentalize all these different lives and interests he had. Like he had his baseball here, and he had his television and radio here. Do you feel that is a good interpretation?

Larry The paranormal.

Priscilla Yes, the paranormal.

Larry Hidden from many people.

Priscilla Yes, or did he just have a lot of varied interests, like all of us?

Dr. I think it's a little of all of that. I think he had kind of an attitude of render under Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God what is God's. You call that compartmentalizing. I guess that's a good description. But it seems to me that he always tried to put kind of a compassion into people he was working with, and they would pick up on that. I guess he was a pretty good healer and worked with conflict, and among the baseball owners he intervened, and would say okay, settle down.

Larry Even in some cases when they called him names and things, he would do the right thing.

Dr. Yes, he'd kind of take a loftier view of what was going on and try to bring some of that atmosphere.

Larry Did he ever give you an idea of where he got the idea that he'd been reincarnated all those different times?

Dr. He was told that. I don't know by whom.

Larry We're wondering if it started with Jim Gordon, or before that.

Dr. I wouldn't be surprised if it started with Jim Gordon. Have you met him?

Larry We're hoping to next month. Go down to Texas.

Dr. Will you forgive me for saying something? I think Jim Gordon really worked him. We took this trip to India, all of us, 1986 or '87. We were all down in the

coach class and Jim Gordon and one or two of his associates were in business class. You can see what I'm leading up to, right?

Larry Yes.

Dr. He got a lot of money, I guess. What's with Bruce Fetzner these days?

Larry He's actively involved in the Trust and everything.

Dr. Oh, is he?

Larry Yes, and he's trying his best to do what John would have wanted, to keep it on track.

Dr. Well, good for him.

Larry Yes.

Dr. There's another guy I've lost contact with. Maybe you knew him, Jeremy Waletzky.

Larry We haven't met him yet. We've heard the name, yes. I think he's on the list of potential—

Dr. He is a psychiatrist in Washington, D.C., or at least he was. Jeremy and I were sitting up late in the hot Indian night in Madras, India, one time, and talking and talking and talking. We were quite good friends at one time; we were drinking Indian beer and eating peanuts, and we got ready to stop for the night. I said, "Well, Jeremy, let me buy the beer for you." He said, "I'll buy it." I said, "Well, it's okay, I'll buy it." He said, "No, no, Dick, let me buy it."

He said, "Let me tell you why." He told me that he had been married to Lucy Rockefeller; then he told me that when they got divorced, he had done some big favors for the Rockefeller family, investments or something like that, and they endowed him pretty heavily. So he had his own foundation. Millions and millions.

Larry He could afford to buy the beer. in other words.

Dr. I said, "Jeremy, buy the beer."

Priscilla He's still on the Trust Board.

Larry Oh, is he?

Priscilla He is on the Fetzner Memorial Trust Board. He was at that dinner.

Dr. Wow. If you run into him, tell him I said hello.

Priscilla Yes, he was in Kalamazoo a couple months ago.

Dr. He and Chuck Spence and I were like the Three Musketeers.

Priscilla Really?

Dr. We went around the temples and hung out.

Larry Oh, no kidding? Are you interested in Buddhism yourself?

Dr. Absolutely. I interweave it with just about everything I do.

Larry Do you really, the Zen Buddhism?

Dr. That's my early influence, from Alan Watts: Weaving together Eastern and Western ideas.

Larry There's some question whether John really was interested in Buddhism, because a person that's interested in the occult, might give that as an answer to someone, I'm a Buddhist. Do you think he was?

Dr. I don't remember him ever saying so directly.

Larry There was an article that came out around 1980 that said that he was really into Buddhism; one interpretation of it would be like I just said, that he just threw that out to—

Priscilla But he had a Buddha in his office.

Dr. He did.

Larry He did.

Dr. I think my impression of John was, his primary interest was linking with people that he thought, had or who presented themselves as having, linkage to higher powers. I think that made him vulnerable to people like Jim Gordon. Like, "This is it. I have the pipeline to the other reality." John was always, I think, looking for that. I know that's just my impression.

Larry A Course in Miracles was another example of that. He read a lot.

Dr. I'll tell you something funny. I came into his office one day, and I was talking about projects I was involved in; he said, "Dick, before you leave here today,

there's something I want to give you." And I thought, okay, here it comes, a couple million dollars to get my work going at Western or something. He came out with this cardboard box. I opened it up and it had all these books of A Course in Miracles. He said, "Here."

Larry Well, you weren't involved in that Monday night group?

Dr. No.

Larry But you knew about it? That they would meet and then discuss whatever they wanted to discuss.

Dr. Yes, I never went. Yes, there was a time when John and I were extremely close. Did everything together.

Larry Yes, obviously, because he funded you, and that didn't happen a lot.

Dr. He didn't fund me a great deal. Just a little here and a little there.

Priscilla But you went on a lot of these road trips with him, and things like this.

Dr. He was kind of a foot in the door in a lot of places. I'd say that I'm being supported by the Fetzer Foundation. Lights would go on places, like it did in Kalamazoo.

Larry Kalamazoo Foundation, yes.

Dr. He was an enigma in many respects.

Larry He had to be, I think; he was walking the tight rope of trying to be a businessman, and then having these paranormal beliefs, explorations. If it got out, it could impair his business world.

Dr. Absolutely. Phenomenon I know really well. Because in the early, early days when I was bringing biofeedback and things like that to the floor, people would say, "Aren't you that guy that is doing that biofeedback stuff at Western?" I'd say, "Yeah, that's me." They'd say, "I want to ask you a question." "What's that?" "What do you think about flying saucers?" That's how they associated me. "Well, I don't know. They might be."

Larry How about witchcraft?

Dr. "Do you employ crystals in your therapy?" Yes, you have to be careful. That was one of the problems we had at Borgess, because they were constantly thinking we were doing some kind of voodoo medicine. But that was then. This

is now. Like you said a while ago, the Mayo Clinic has a biofeedback department.

Priscilla Yes.

Dr. It's everywhere.

Priscilla It is everywhere.

Larry That word - did you actually coin 'holistic' yourself?

Dr. Locally I did.

Larry Everybody knows what that is now.

Dr. I didn't know what it meant. I just thought of it as, get the whole thing in one place, holistic. but then later on I learned—

Priscilla It makes perfect sense.

Dr. Later on I learned what the word meant. During that period I must have been doing eight to ten presentations a month, all over the state here and there.

Larry Yes, I read the article in 1980 that was in Encore. That was a good development, wasn't it?

Dr. Oh, you dug that article up.

Larry Got to do a little homework.

Priscilla We did our research before we came here.

Dr. I guess you did. Tell me again what you're going to put together about Mr. Fetzer. What is this now?

Larry There was a series of oral histories done about, oh, 15 years ago by a well-known historian, Phil Mason; but he really did not do much about John's spiritual search. He's a traditional historian. The Fetzer Institute has hired us to go back and try and see if we can get information about that in particular, so that some future biographer can have it available.

Priscilla It'll be in the archives.

Larry Oral history is one very important part of history, because you get things that are not committed to other media, and you get stories; I'm a firm believer in it.

I've used it in all my books. That has to be buttressed with textural records, but it's very important. So that's what we're doing.

Priscilla For instance, earlier this week we went out to where these people have built pyramids; John had gone out there and been in the pyramid and meditated and brought Rhea out once, and things like that. None of that had ever been documented; and a lot of people like you that we're touching base with were good friends of his.

Larry For some reason you were not interviewed back 15 years ago, and you should have been because you've told us some important things.

Dr. I did multiple sessions with John on brainwave training and things like that.

Priscilla Did you really?

Dr. I don't know if this is new information or not. He turned me onto a book one time that I got a hold of. I think it was called Wenger – Winger – Wanger or something.

Larry Yes, he wrote that.

Dr. Yes, you know about that?

Larry Yes, that was his genealogy.

Dr. I didn't know about that.

Larry Yes, he wrote two. Genealogy becomes a passion with people, and he got that passion and followed it. Went to Europe and tracked ancestors and all that.

Dr. A final kind of footnote is, you asked about compartmentalizing and so forth. There were times - how can I say this? He appeared to be kind of on the edge of going a little bit too far over, a little bizarre, and I was concerned at times. He'd kind of lose his grounding; but then next time I would see him, it was like business as usual. I didn't make anything of it. He was kind of fragile in some respects.

Larry Yes, but he never gave up the search.

Dr. Not as far as I know.

Larry Did he ever bring out the Ouija board?

Dr. No, he mentioned that at one time, and I don't like those things. They're kind of intimidating. I have a lot of interest in the paranormal. In fact, at Western I

taught the first university course in the Midwest United States on experimental parapsychology.

Larry Really?

Dr. Which made me a very popular hit with the psychology department. I think that there's a lot more that we don't know about tapping into subtle energies, and a Ouija board might be one way to do that. You might not like it once you tap into it.

Larry Yes, there's probably a dark side to all of this, isn't there?

Dr. Yes. I'd prefer not to go there. I don't want to know.

Larry Right, you don't have to know everything. Well, this has been really, really great.

Dr. You've caused me to think of things I haven't thought about in a long time.